

art & design 28: Fashion

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Barbara Wendt

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FASHION DESIGN PROCESS

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What fuels your design ideas?

My surroundings and everything that crosses my mind. It varies from books to late-night talks with friends, TV series, philosophy, or just nature.

Do you have sources of inspiration that you always revisit?

I've always been inspired by colors and how they can transform the mood of an entire room and the emotions of people surrounded by them. As I continually return to this theme, I've come to recognise that I've been drawn to different colors at various stages of life and what they've meant to me. This has led to the practice of reflecting on my life through colors and also understanding the kind of feelings I experience through my surroundings.

What 2D-3D methods or techniques do you use to explore ideas?

My techniques often go hand in hand. The main techniques are drawing, exploring, and working with textiles. They frequently influence each other physically. Across these components, I am always striving to reflect on how they interact after every step.



What is most meaningful stage of designing for you and what happens at that moment?

It's the stage where everything comes together. Not because I want to end a project, but more like the feeling that everything is done perfectly and there is no better time than now. It's the feeling that I've allowed my project to unfold its full potential. On the other hand, it can also be frustrating when you have to stick to a time schedule and I know it's not the right time for the project to end.

What is the most enjoyable part of designing for you?

It's the playful experimenting with different materials. Nothing has to be perfect, nothing has to work out, but when it does, I am amazed by what comes out. And if it doesn't, I hope it connects with my inner child through crafting. But I also have to admit that it's only enjoyable when I am satisfied with the outcome, so I like to take my time for this.

Who are the practitioners who you feel have influenced your design?

People around me and also the author Liv Strömquist, who help me understand the world I am living in but also help me understand who I am and why. Bilderbuch (the band) who sing a lot about love between two or all human beings on earth. Their yearly concerts, often held in



May, also initiate Spring and Summer for me. Comme des Garçons stands for being brave and trying out new shapes in fashion. Iris van Herpen and my Professor Paul Reza Klein for beautifully connecting electronics with fabric. Jacquemus for pleasing my eyes every time.

What role does collaboration play in your designing?

Collaborative work can be so much fun, but I don't actively seek it out. For me, it's more about exchanging ideas and learning from others and their techniques, and seeing where it leads me or us. I love keeping it open, whether we are going the path fully together or only for some parts of the process.

As tangata whenua or tangata Tiriti, how do you practice in our Aotearoa New Zealand framework?

I am new to New Zealand, so I am slowly diving into a new culture. Maybe it will affect me at some point, but for now, it is more about learning and understanding a new culture.

Considering your reflection and answers to the above questions – how would you describe the "research" that you do as part of your design process?

Diverse, playful, interested in new things, and reflective.